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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/724,330	11/26/2003	Ronald A. Katz	6046-101N8	9987

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EXAMINER
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WOO, STELLA L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2614

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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06/13/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/724,330

**Applicant(s)**

KATZ, RONALD A.

**Examiner**

Stella L. Woo

**Art Unit**

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 December 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 17-49 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 49 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 17-48 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                     | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on December 20, 2006 has been entered.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 17-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claims contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claim 17 recites "selectively routing the active buyer to another distinct vendor based on the request data in the event a first vendor does not fulfill a request" (lines 16-17). However, there is no description of such selective routing to another vendor after providing identified video and text to the active buyer.

Claim 33 similarly recites the above subject matter, not supported by the specification.

Should the new matter be removed from claims 17 and 33, the following rejections would apply.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 17-29, 33-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith (US 5,450,123) in view of Grady et al. (US 5,712,906, hereinafter "Grady").

Smith discloses a method for selectively accomplishing electronic communication between members of plural groups, including at least one potential buyer (caller at video station 1) and at least one vendor (agent at station 2), at remote sites (stations are coupled via PSTN 3), via commercial transaction communication control system (see Figures 1 and 2), comprising the steps of:

accessing said system (system can be accessed via computer 5; Figure 1);

receiving and storing dynamic video data from a vendor (vendor-supplied video images are stored in a video source and database 6, and a selected video image is provided to the caller; col. 2, lines 65-68; col. 5, line 1 - col. 6, line 14);

storing data associated with an active buyer including buyer identification data and commercial transaction data (service parameters stored in processor 9, 11 or 22

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include a caller's telephone number (ANI) and account type; col. 4, lines 2-7; col. 5, lines 1-5, 19-22); and

selectively processing the commercial transaction data by first identifying select data and then providing the dynamic video and text to said active buyer (based on the caller's account type, an appropriate video message from video source 6 is provided to the caller; col. 5, lines 17-37; a video message can include text, col. 6, lines 45-49).

Smith differs from claims 17 and 33 in that it does not specify text communications between the vendor and buyer. However, Grady, from the same field of endeavor, teaches the desirability of providing text communications (email) between terminals (col. 11, lines 46-47) in addition to video and multimedia communication. It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill to provide for text communications, as taught by Grady, between the caller and agent stations of Smith in order to provide an additional means of communication.

Regarding claims 18-19, 22-24, Smith provides for a camera at each videophone station to provide direct, point-to-point video communication (col. 4, lines 24-28).

Regarding claims 20, 25, in Smith, the video image can include a dynamic graph associated with the vendor's company (col. 6, lines 44-49).

Regarding claims 21, 33-41, Grady teaches the multi-media presentation as including still images and plain text (col. 1, lines 35-38; col. 5, lines 8-9).

Regarding claims 26, 42, Smith provides for real-time audio communication via videophone stations (col. 3, lines 5-19).

Regarding claim 27-29, 43-45, Smith provides for the caller entering a service code or real-time input to select a desired video source signal (col. 4, lines 45-48, 62-66; col. 5, lines 7-22).

6. Claims 30-32 and 46-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith in view of Grady, as applied to claims 27 and 43 above, and further in view of Brown et al. (US 4,972,318, hereinafter "Brown").

The combination of Smith and Grady differs from claims 30 and 46 in that it does not teach the use of EDI data. However, since Smith relates to a sales and ordering system (Smith, col. 2, lines 58-68), and Brown teaches the well known use of EDI to communicate transactional information (col. 1, lines 33-48), it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill to incorporate such use of EDI, as taught by Brown, within the combination of Smith and Grady in order to allow for product ordering using EDI data, as used by vendors and suppliers.

Regarding claims 31-32 and 47-48, Brown teaches the order system being combined with inventory control (Figures 2 and 6(d)) and provides notification to the buyer when the desired product is out-of-stock (col. 9, lines 39-42).

### ***Response to Arguments***

7. Applicant's arguments filed December 20, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that "[n]either reference, alone, or in combination, teach the claimed steps of storing data associated with an active buyer, in a memory associated with the commercial transaction communication control system including buyer

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identification data and commercial transaction data that includes request data entered by the active buyer and selectively processing the commercial transaction data by first identifying select data including dynamic video and text data relating to the vendor and then providing dynamic video and text to the active buyer responsive to said commercial transaction data and in some instances selectively routing the active buyer to another distinct vendor based on the request data in the event a first vendor does not fulfill a request.”

However, applicant's disclosure fails to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention, particular the limitation at the end of claims 17 and 33: “selectively routing the active buyer to another distinct vendor based on the request data in the event a first vendor does not fulfill a request.” The above prior art rejections are based on the subject matter which finds support in applicant's original disclosure.

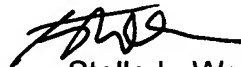
Applicant further argues that “[n]either Smith nor Grady disclose the claimed steps as urged above in the context of a commercial transaction communication control system.” However, Smith is directed to video/audio communication between a customer and a stockbroker (col. 2, lines 58-68) and Grady teaches the well known use of email communication along with vide/audio communication between two terminals such that the email communication, as taught by Grady, would have been an obvious extension to the audio/video communication which takes place between two terminals in Smith.

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8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stella L. Woo whose telephone number is (571) 272-7512. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis Kuntz can be reached on (571) 272-7499. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Stella L. Woo  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2614